

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MERIDA 00019 221750Z

22 10

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIG-02 SCSE-00 SCA-01 MMO-04 A-01 CPR-01

/020 W

----- 103255

R 221500Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL MERIDA

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 836

UNCLAS MERIDA 0019

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AMGT

SUBJ: CONSULAR AGENT FOR CANCUN, Q. ROO

1. SERIOUS COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF US CITIZENS IN CANCUN, Q. ROO RECENTLY HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS CONSULATE.

2. SEVERAL US CITIZENS HAVE BEEN SERIOUSLY INJURED, TWO OR THREE SUBJECT TO EXTORTION BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS AND ONE DROWNED AS A RESULT OF EXTREMELY POOR FACILITATIVE SERVICES AT THAT RESORT AREA. THERE APPEARS TO BE A SERIOUS LACK OF INTENT ON THE PART OF THE DEVELOPERS TO ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY IN THESE MATTERS.

3. THREE DEATHS SINCE CHRISTMAS HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE LACK OF PREPARATION ON THE PART OF THE CANCUN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, FONATUR, LOCAL HOTELS AND CIVIL OFFICIALS TO PLAN FOR CONTINGENCIES OF THIS NATURE.

4. ADEQUATE MEDICAL FACILITIES DO NOT EXIST.

5. TELEPHONE SERVICE IS TOTALLY INADEQUATE FOR AMERICAN CITIZENS FACED WITH EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

6. CANCUN IS 200 MILES FROM MERIDA AND THE CONSULATE PERSONNEL SITUATION DOES NOT READILY ALLOW FOR AN AMERICAN OFFICER TO SPEND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MERIDA 00019 221750Z

MUCH TIME IN THAT AREA.

7. CANCUN HAS DEVELOPED RAPIDLY WITH A GREAT DEAL OF OFFICIAL PROPAGANDA FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT. AIRLINES ARE COMPETING FOR LANDING RIGHTS AT CANCUN AND THE DEVELOPERS ARE GAMBLING A GREAT DEAL ON ITS SUCCESS AS A MAJOR TOURIST ATTRACTION. AMERICAN TOURISTS, GIVEN ITS PROXIMITY TO THE US, ARE POURING INTO THE AREA.

8. FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, THE CONSULATE STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT A US CONSULAR AGENT BE APPOINTED IN CANCUN AT THE EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

9. AN EXAMPLE OF THE DIFFICULTIES AMERICANS ENCOUNTER IN CANCUN WILL BE FOUND IN LETTER, DATED JAN 14, 1976, FROM MISS BARBARA PATTERSON, DETROIT, MICHIGAN, SECRETARY TO G. MENNEN WILLIAMS, COPY OF WHICH WAS SENT TO THIS CONSULATE AND AMBASSADOR JOVA. COPY TO BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT, ATTN SCA/SCS. ASHFORD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 JAN 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MERIDA00019  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760025-1047  
**From:** MERIDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760132/aaaabbqr.tel  
**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ullricre  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 24 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <24 JUN 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <21 SEP 2004 by ullricre>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONSULAR AGENT FOR CANCUN, Q. ROO  
**TAGS:** AMGT  
**To:** MEXICO  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006